



# The Delta Conservancy

Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy

Number 1, Issue 2 April 2012

*"A partner for balanced ecosystem restoration and economic development in the Delta."*

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## Conservancy's Strategic Plan: Have We Got It Right?

The roles the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy can play in the Delta are the focus of its draft Strategic Plan, released on Monday, March 26, 2012. There will be a four week public comment period ending on Monday, April 20; public comments will also be sought at three public workshops throughout the Delta.

"We've met with a lot of people in the Delta to get their input into this draft," said Campbell Ingram, executive officer of the Delta Conservancy. "What we would like from the Delta community at this time is a review of our document to make sure we got it right. Did we accurately characterize their input in our roles and potential efforts."

The 70-page document describes three potential roles for the Conservancy, based on four scenarios. The three potential roles are:

- **Convener:** The Delta Conservancy is uniquely positioned to convene conversations between the various stakeholders in the Delta. In this role, the Delta Conservancy will facilitate discussions to highlight the interests and concerns of each stakeholder that can lead to shared understanding of issues for eventual collaboration on projects.
- **Implementer:** The Delta Conservancy will be an implementer of ecosystem restoration efforts and efforts that support the economic well-being of Delta residents. This role will include developing partnerships with state, federal, and local agencies as well as non-governmental organizations and individuals.
- **Funder:** Of the three potential roles for the

## Work Sessions Set

The public will have an opportunity to contribute to the draft Strategic Plan through a series of three work sessions set for early April.

The schedule for the work sessions is:

- **Rio Vista City Council Chambers**  
One Main Street  
Rio Vista, CA  
Tuesday, April 10, 2012  
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- **Clarksburg Community Church**  
52910 Netherlands Avenue  
Clarksburg, CA  
Thursday, April 12, 2012  
3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
- **Oakley City Council Chambers**  
3231 Main Street  
Oakley, CA  
Saturday, April 14, 2012  
10:00 a.m. - 12 noon

Delta Conservancy, this one is most sensitive to the scenarios. Depending upon the level of funding the Conservancy receives, it will provide grants and loans to Delta interests to help achieve the Delta Conservancy's co-equal responsibilities.

The four scenarios that affect how the Delta Conservancy can carry out these roles are shaped by two critical factors: the passage (or not) of the 2012 Water Bond and the timely completion and implementation (or not) of

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Sacramento-  
San Joaquin

**Delta  
Conservancy**

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#### **Campbell's Corner**

## **The Plan Review Process is Critical to the Delta Community; How Can We Help You?**

Our draft strategic plan is available for review and public comment, as are other critical plans that will impact the Delta community. While we understand many people are tired of reviewing plans, we encourage you to persist and review and comment on our plan or others, including Delta Stewardship Council's Delta Plan and the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan. As Senator Wolk often says, we need to take every opportunity to participate in public processes to make our voices heard. You are your best advocate for your interests and views.

We understand that wading through endless pages of plans with technical terminology is daunting and often confusing. If you would like clarifications on points in any of the plans, we'd like to help. We are making the Conservancy staff available to offer objective, technical assistance to any Delta resident or organization with specific questions about any of these plans. If we don't have the answers or information you request, we will get it. Our goal is to support you in engaging effectively in the process. Please feel free to contact me at [cingram@deltaconservancy.ca.gov](mailto:cingram@deltaconservancy.ca.gov) or by phone 916-375-2084.

### **Have We Got It Right?**

*Continued from page 1*

the five plans which collectively will set the regulatory context in which the Conservancy will operate. Those five plans are:

- Delta Plan, Delta Stewardship Council
- Resource Management Plan, Delta Protection Commission (completed)
- Central Valley Flood Protection Plan
- Suisun Marsh Preservation Act of 1977
- Habitat Management, Preservation and Restoration Plan for the Suisun Marsh (completed)

The four scenarios are:

A. The bond passes and the five plans are completed and implemented. There will be high funding and strong regulatory drivers framing the context in which the Delta Conservancy can carry out its mandates/roles.

B. The bond passes, and the five plans are not completed or implemented. There will be high funding but little regulatory context in which the Delta Conservancy can carry out its mandates/roles.

C. The bond does not pass, and the five plans are completed and implemented. There will be little funding and strong regulatory drivers framing the context in which the Delta Conservancy can carry out its mandates/roles.

D. The bond does not pass, and the five plans are not completed or implemented. This essentially is the scenario context in which the Delta Conservancy currently operates. There is little funding and little regulatory context in which the Delta Conservancy can carry out its mandates/roles.

### **The deadline for comments on the draft Strategic Plan is April 20, 2012.**

The draft Strategic Plan is available on the Conservancy's website at [www.deltaconservancy.ca.gov](http://www.deltaconservancy.ca.gov). Comments may be submitted via email at [comments@deltaconservancy.ca.gov](mailto:comments@deltaconservancy.ca.gov) or sent to the Conservancy headquarters at 3500 Industrial Blvd., second floor, West Sacramento, CA, 95691.

# Mike Eaton Honored as 2012 Regional Environmental Stewardship Leader



Mike Eaton, Board Member

Mike Eaton, Conservancy Board Member and Chair for the Strategic Plan and Policy Subcommittee, will be honored as the 2012 Regional Environmental Stewardship Leader by Valley Vision at their Legacy Feast held on May 16 at the Crocker Art Museum.

Mike's conservation and environmental policy work protected nearly 50,000 acres of the Cosumnes River watershed, a vital natural resource in our region. He served as the Senior Project Director at The Nature Conservancy and Executive Director of the Resource Legacy Fund. Additionally, Mike has served as board chair and supported a number of local organizations that include Soil Born Farms, ECOS, and the Sacramento Local Conservation Corps. Mike operates a small farm in Galt.

## Collaboration in the Delta

### Many Collaborate to Restore & Preserve the Suisun Marsh



Suisun Marsh from Kirby Hill

Photo by Jeremy Todoroff

In December 2011, the Suisun Marsh Habitat Management, Preservation and Restoration Plan (SMP) Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) was completed, the culmination of 10 years of collaborative effort by state and federal governments and local landowner representatives. The SMP is looked upon by the participants as a significant and satisfactory agreement that protects the environmental values of the Marsh for both landowners and regulatory environmental agencies.

The SMP is a comprehensive 30-year plan designed to address the various conflicts regarding use of resources within about 50,000 acres of the Marsh. The plan focuses on achieving an acceptable multi-stakeholder approach to habitat conservation by providing the stakeholder coordination and environmental compliance foundation for

tidal marsh restoration and managed wetland enhancements in the Marsh.

The SMP was prepared by the Principal Agencies with US Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and US Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) as co-lead agencies in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) as the lead agency in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The SMP Notice of Determination (in accordance with CEQA) was completed in December 2011. A Record of Decision (in accordance with NEPA) is anticipated in 2012.

#### A Forty Year Effort

The SMP is itself a culmination of about 40 years worth of efforts from many sources to protect and recognize the unique value the

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***"The SMP is looked upon ... as a significant and satisfactory agreement that protects the environmental values of the Marsh..."***



## Suisun Marsh

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Marsh provides to the Bay-Delta ecosystem. Following are highlights of the work involved in preserving the Suisun Marsh.

In 1977, the California Legislature implemented the Suisun Marsh Preservation Act of 1977, which calls for the implementation of the Suisun Marsh Plan of Protection and designates the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) as the state agency with jurisdiction over the Marsh. It calls for the Suisun Resource Conservation District (SRCD) to have the primary local responsibility for water management on privately owned lands in the Marsh.

In 1987, Reclamation, California Department of Water Resources (DWR), DFG, and SRCD signed the Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement (SMPA), which contains provisions for Reclamation and DWR to mitigate the adverse effects on Marsh channel water salinity from the State Water Project (SWP) and Central Valley Project (CVP)

operations and other upstream diversions.

In 2000, the CALFED Record of Decision was signed, which included the Environmental Restoration Program (ERP) calling for the restoration of 5,000 to 7,000 acres of tidal wetlands and the enhancement of 40,000 to 50,000 acres of managed wetlands.

In 2001, the Principal Agencies (Reclamation, Service, DFG, DWR, National Marine Fisheries Service, and SRCD) directed the formation of a charter group to develop a plan for the Marsh that would balance the needs of CALFED, the SMPA, and other plans by protecting and enhancing existing land uses, existing waterfowl and wildlife values including those associated with the Pacific Flyway, endangered species, and state and federal water project supply quality. In addition to the Principal Agencies, the charter group includes other regulatory agencies such as the US Army Corps of Engineers, BCDC, and the State and Regional Water Boards.

*Written by Rebecca A. Victorine, Natural Resource Specialist, US Bureau of Reclamation*

## Delta History

### In the Days before Bridges: The Clarksburg Ferry

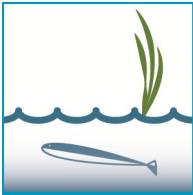
The Clarksburg Ferry, shown January 13, 1920. Used by permission of the Friends of the Clarksburg Library.



*The 150-year history of the Delta is both rich and deep. So are the stories of the families that have persevered and set down roots in the Delta. The Delta Conservancy would like to help spread the Delta's history for the enjoyment and enrichment of Delta residents as well as all Californians. Whether you've been in the Delta for 2 years, 20 years, or you go back so many generations that you can't recall when your people arrived; we'd like to hear your family's stories.*

Did you know that "Clarksburgh" changed its name to "Clarksburg" in 1893. And that the Clarksburg ferry "supposedly" sank in 1928? This ferry operated on the Sacramento River between Clarksburg and the river road to the east from 1920 to 1929. This dual-paddle wheeler ferry was constructed by the Portuguese family-owned business, Nunes Brothers Boat and Ways Co. of Clarksburg. The ferrymen for the Clarksburg Ferry, which was advertised by the county as "the largest, best and fastest (ferry) on the river," were: Mike Silva and Charlie Butler. The ferry's landing on the Yolo side was located near the southern boundary of the town of Clarksburg. In 1928, the Clarksburg Ferry was involved in an accident, when a large shipment of hardwood floor lumber, which was being transported and intended for the new Clarksburg High School, caused the ferry to tilt and overturn. Although the ferry continued to operate for another year, damage required major repairs to the ferry. The

*(Continued on page 5)*



## Notes from the Field

# Mosquito Control in the Suisun Marsh

In 1930, local taxpayers requested mosquito control in the Suisun and San Pablo Bay Marshes and formed the Solano County Mosquito Abatement District (SCMAD). Today, with a staff of nine, including five control technicians, SCMAD is responsible for mosquito abatement throughout Solano County, including the Suisun Marsh. While mosquitoes cannot be eradicated completely, this management program has been quite successful. According to the California West Nile Virus website, no human cases of West Nile Virus have been reported in Solano County since 2009 and only one case in both 2007 and 2008.

### Best Management Practices for Managed Wetlands

To reach mosquito control success in the Suisun Marsh, four primary mosquito control methods are used: water manipulation/management, vegetation management, mosquito predators, and chemical treatment. Different species require different control methods. Flooding late in the season (late October-November) when the weather is cooler, reduces some mosquito populations. For some species, the faster the flood water can be applied, the fewer generations of mosquitoes will be hatched. For other species, maintaining stable water levels is effective. Fluctuating water levels tend to expose and dry wetland edges providing suitable conditions for floodwater mosquitoes to lay eggs, which will later hatch when water levels are raised.

Emergent vegetation, such as pickleweed and saltgrass, are habitat for mosquito larvae. Mowing or disking this vegetation reduces

mosquito production.

Mosquito predators, such as the native stickleback and the introduced mosquito fish, can control some populations in areas with low emergent plant cover. Invertebrate predators, such as dragonfly larvae, beetles, and water boatmen, feed on mosquito larvae and are extremely important in controlling mosquito populations. These invertebrates naturally colonize in wetlands and usually begin to reduce mosquito populations 2-4 weeks after the wetlands are first flooded. Broad-spectrum insecticides are avoided to control mosquito populations, as they may kill the beneficial invertebrate predators. SCMAD technicians inspect mosquito breeding sources every 7 to 10 days and, if finding substantial larvae numbers, will schedule an aerial spraying of methoprene to inhibit mosquito growth.

Each year the SCMAD meets with staff of the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) to discuss upcoming flooding plans. Identifying location, species and density of mosquito larvae on a pond by pond basis, SCMAD makes recommendations to DFG on water and vegetation management techniques that would help minimize mosquito production.

SCMAD also reviews with Suisun Resource Conservation District (SRCD) staff the flooding and draining capabilities of individual duck clubs before any early flooding commences. Sharing information encourages duck club owners to follow the same best management practices on private property as DFG does on public property.

**“...no human cases of West Nile Virus have been reported in Solano County since 2009”**



**“Sharing information encourages ... best management practices.”**

### The Clarksburg Ferry

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Clarksburg Ferry was discontinued due to the opening of the Freeport Bridge in 1929.

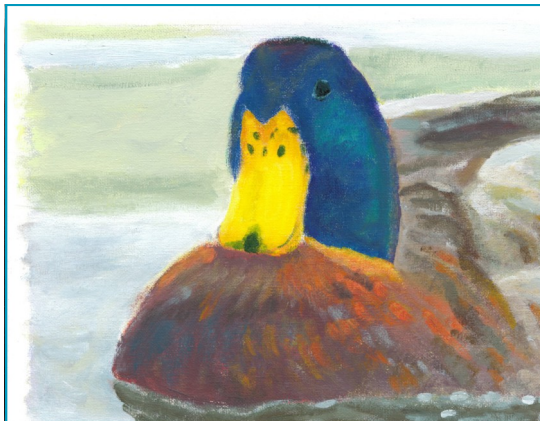
This tidbit came from the Sacramento River Delta Historical Society, where volunteers are well versed in Delta history and can put their

fingers on a document almost before you've asked for it. If you are interested in Delta history, pay them a visit at [www.srdhs.org](http://www.srdhs.org) or stop by in person at the Jean Harvie Community Center in Walnut Grove (14273 River Road). Tell them that the Delta Conservancy sent you.

## Conservancy's "Duck" Named at Duck Days

Some children wrote down the first name that popped in their head, while others agonized over coming up with the perfect name for the Delta Conservancy's Duck at the Yolo Basin Foundation's Duck Days in February. From the 73 names suggested, Matthew Linn of Mountain View, won the contest. Meet "Winchester", the Conservancy's duck!

"Winchester" was rendered by staff artist Susan Roberts.



## Delta Grants Coalition Forms to Attract Funders

Sponsored by the Delta Conservancy, a group of grant writers from Delta-based organizations formed the Delta Grants Coalition to share grant development expertise and to create a visible community that attracts *funders*. Two collaborations have already resulted from the coalition.

Aaron Will, Ducks Unlimited, with support from Erin Volk, Associated General Contractors of California, among others, submitted a River Parkways Grant to expand public access facilities at the Cosumnes River Preserve. Mr. Will also collaborated with Nina Suzuki of the Center for Land-Based Learning resulting in contacts for two project sites, one of which will construct additional seasonal and brood wetland habitats.

In this economy, funders prefer projects on which two or more partners collaborate to meet the community's need. To encourage collaboration and sharing resources, the coalition asks organizations to complete a short Project Overview Form. Project summaries will be shared with other members.

To showcase the Delta community so that potential funders can better see the support the community receives, members intend to form a webpage highlighting organizations making an impact in the Delta. The focus is on projects dealing with ecosystem restoration, agriculture, recreation/tourism, or historical/cultural preservation. Any nonprofit, public or private organization working on these kinds of projects is welcome to participate in the coalition.

For more information, contact Susan Roberts, [sroberts@deltaconservancy.ca.gov](mailto:sroberts@deltaconservancy.ca.gov), 916-375-2088.

### *Delta Fairs, Festivals, & Events*

**Stockton Asparagus Festival**  
**April 27-29**  
[asparagusfest.com](http://asparagusfest.com)

**ZinFest, Lodi**  
**May 18-20**  
[zinfest.com](http://zinfest.com)

**Walk on the Wildside, Freeport**  
**May 19**  
[fws.gov/stonelakes/wow.htm](http://fws.gov/stonelakes/wow.htm)

**Contra Costa County Fair**  
**Antioch-Pittsburg**  
**May 31-June 3**  
[ccfair.org](http://ccfair.org)

**Raising the Tower, Discover the Delta Foundation, Isleton**  
**June 1**  
[discoverthedelta.org](http://discoverthedelta.org)

**Isleton Crawdad Festival**  
**June 16-17**  
[isletoncoc.org/crawdad.html](http://isletoncoc.org/crawdad.html)

**Great American Camp Out**  
**Discovery Bay**  
**June 23**  
[backyardcampout.org](http://backyardcampout.org)



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